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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY REVIEWS

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur Ms. Marina RANGA (Romania)

Chapter ...

Chairman's Summary of the discussion

1. The work on science, technology and innovation policy (STIP) reviews received the endorsement and support of the Commission. These reviews were a powerful tool in building up national science and technology capabilities and could help mobilize resources for this purpose. They could also be undertaken at the regional level with a view to addressing the situation of all countries in a region simultaneously, though it was recognized that for follow-up activities national efforts were essential.

2. Several members supported the organization by the Commission of a workshop on STIP reviews and other similar reviews to promote the sharing of experiences among countries at different stages of development and suggested that a monograph could subsequently be published for the benefit of other countries. Based on its discussion of the first STIP review recently completed in Colombia, the Commission discussed the STIP review process and the lessons learned from that experience, including the influence engendered on development and technical change in the country concerned. Similar experiences were presently being undertaken by other multilateral organizations such as OECD, and it might be possible to improve coordination by bringing together those experiences with those of the STIP reviews for consideration at the above-mentioned workshop.

3. The discussion also addressed the issue of technical assistance to member States in the formulation of STI policies through the STIP reviews. Although the STIP reviews needed to be tailored to the needs and characteristics of each participating country, it was stressed by some members that there should nevertheless be some common themes, e.g. (i) a review of STI policy; (ii) the financing of innovation and coalition of resources; and (iii) the role of external resources in endogenous S&T capacity-building aimed at improving coordination of donor contributions.